

Make a Family Plan

Plan in advance what you will do in an emergency. Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the event, the first important decision is whether you shelter in place or evacuate.

Create a plan to “Shelter-in-Place”

There are situations when staying in put and creating a barrier between you and potential contamination is the best idea, maybe even a matter of survival.

Choose an interior room or one with as few windows and doors as possible and if directed seal doors, windows, and air vent with plastic sheeting. This is known as “shelter-in-place.”

Establish an Evacuation Plan

Plan in advance how you will get together with your family and where you will go. Know destinations in more than one direction and be familiar with alternate routes and transportation. If you do not have a car, plan how you will leave if you have to. Remember your 3-day kit and lock the door behind you.

Have a Family Communications Plan

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another. Have a plan that each person contacts the same friend or relative in an emergency situation so that there is a common point of contact and information can be shared more easily.

Remember:

- It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an **out-of-town contact** may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members.
- Be sure every member of your family **knows the phone number** and has **coins** or a **prepaid phone card** to call the emergency contact.
- **You may have trouble getting through**, or the telephone system may be down altogether, **but be patient**.

Print and complete this form to make sure you have and know all the right information:

http://www.ready.gov/america/downloads/family_communications_plan.pdf